

REMARKS

The present Amendment cancels claims 1-10 and leaves claims 19 and 21 unchanged. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 19 and 21.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sicher (U.S. Patent No. 5,570,411) in view of Erickson (U.S. Patent No. 6,067,457) and further in view of Calvagnic (U.S. Patent No. 5,557,608); claim 4 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sicher, Erickson, Calvagnic and further in view of Wyrwas (U.S. Patent No. 6,771,627); claims 5-8 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sicher, Erickson, Calvagnic, Wyrwas and further in view of Linnewah (U.S. Patent No. 5,862,485); claim 9 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sicher, Erickson, Calvagnic and further in view of Hughes (U.S. Patent No. 6,704,577); and claim 10 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sicher, Erickson, Calvagnic and further in view of Mannett (U.S. Patent No. 6,816,500). As indicated above, claims 1-10 were canceled. Therefore, these rejections with respect to claims 1-10 are rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

It should be noted that the cancellation of claims 1-10 was not intended nor should it be considered as an agreement on Applicants part that the features recited in claims 1-10 are taught or suggested by any of the references of record. The cancellation of claims 1-10 was simply intended to expedite prosecution of the present application.

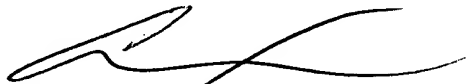
Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication in paragraph 7 of the Office Action that claims 19 and 21 are allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 19 and 21 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 19 and 21 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (501.39856X00).

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.



Carl I. Brundidge
Registration No. 29,621

CIB/jdc
(703) 684-1120